

red tape and the hassle of filling out all these forms, forming the committee. By raising that to \$2,000 some of them would not have to do that. So, unless there are questions, I'd just urge your adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, did you wish to talk about the committee amendments?

SENATOR WITHEM: I'd be happy to. If Senator Scofield would move, I'd be delighted to say something about them. The purpose of LB 480 is essentially to make the accountability and disclosure process for candidates and committees somewhat more comprehensible, easier to comply with and to update it. I just wanted, as one of the co-sponsors of the bill, was just going to say I do, in fact, support the committee amendments, particularly this provision that allows the commission some flexibility in dealing with violations because we have all kinds of violations out there from the most obvious blatant ones which should be dealt with as severely and strenuously as possible, to those small issue-oriented committees, individuals getting involved in politics for the first time perhaps, who do make some very honest sorts of mistakes, and we should not use the accountability and disclosure process as a means of discouraging that type of citizen involvement. So to allow the commission the flexibility of decreasing the fines to individuals who, through no intention, fail to comply with some of the disclosure requirements and reporting requirements I think is a good proposal and I support the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, did you wish to talk about the committee amendments? All right. Senator Schmit, did you wish to talk about the committee amendments? Mr. Clerk, we have an amendment to the committee amendments?

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President. Senator Smith would move to amend the committee amendments. Senator Smith's amendment is on page 1333 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT: Oh, it's Smith, excuse me.

SENATOR SMITH: Smith.